

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/734,253

Examiner

Romain Jeanty

Applicant(s)

MASHIKO ET AL.

Art Unit

3623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 8/9/06 and 10/27/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4, 7-11 and 14.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

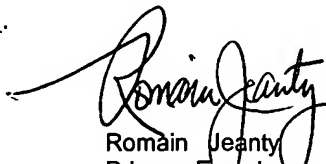
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


Romain Jeanty
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 3623

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with John Young (Reg. No. 57,150) on October 27, 2006.

Claim 1:

Line 4, after "of a", delete [~~given~~].

Line 5, delete [~~entire~~].

Line 5, after "conference", insert --in entirety, --.

Line 6, after "addressed;", delete [~~and~~].

Line 8, after "section", insert --; and a schedule management section which measures the time from the start of discussion of the subjects addressed at the conference and gives a notice when a scheduled discussion end time of a subject under discussion comes according to the schedule planned by the schedule planning section and when the scheduled discussion end time of the subject under discussion comes, the information accepting section selects whether to terminate discussing the subject under discussion and if the discussion is to be continued, the information accepting section accepts modification of the necessary information which has already been accepted by the information accepting section, said schedule planning section

Art Unit: 3623

replanning a subsequent schedule for the conference in progress based on the modification of the necessary information--.

Claims 5-6: Cancelled.

Claim 7:

Line 1 delete [6], insert --1--.

Claim 8:

Line 5, after delete [~~given~~].

Line 6, delete [~~entire~~].

Line 6, after “conference”, insert --in entirety, --.

Line 8, after “section”, insert --; and a schedule management section which measures the time from the start of discussion of the subjects addressed at the conference and gives a notice when a scheduled discussion end time of a subject under discussion comes according to the schedule planned by the schedule planning section and when the scheduled discussion end time of the subject under discussion comes, the information accepting section selects whether to terminate discussing the subject under discussion and if the discussion is to be continued, the information accepting section accepts modification of the necessary information which has already been accepted by the information accepting section, said schedule planning section replanning a subsequent schedule for the conference in progress based on the modification of the necessary information--.

Claims 12-13: Cancelled.

Art Unit: 3623

Claim 14:

Line 1 delete [~~13~~], insert --8--.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-4, 7-11 and 14 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art is to Hogan (US Patent No. 5,903,637) and of Griffin et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,303,145), and Griffin (US Patent No. 5,303,145). Hogan teaches a system and method for providing call conferencing features with a call processing system, a conference call controller is provided to control setup, origination and termination of the conference call. Griffin et al disclose a system to schedule and confirm meetings in a data processing system which includes stored calendars for prospective attendees. However the combination of Hogan and Griffin fails to teach a schedule management section which measures the time from the start of discussion of the subjects addressed at the conference and gives a notice when a scheduled discussion end time of a subject under discussion comes according to the schedule planned by the schedule planning section and when the scheduled discussion end time of the subject under discussion comes, the information accepting section selects whether to terminate discussing the subject under discussion and if the discussion is to be continued, the information accepting section accepts modification of the necessary information which has already been accepted by

Art Unit: 3623

the information accepting section, said schedule planning section replanning a subsequent schedule for the conference in progress based on the modification of the necessary information, taken in combination with a conference management assistance apparatus which assists progress of proceedings as recited in independent claim 1.

The closest prior art is to Hogan (US Patent No. 5,903,637) and of Griffin et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,303,145), and Griffin (US Patent No. 5,303,145). Hogan teaches a system and method for providing call conferencing features with a call processing system, a conference call controller is provided to control setup, origination and termination of the conference call. Griffin et al disclose a system to schedule and confirm meetings in a data processing system which includes stored calendars for prospective attendees. However the combination of Hogan and Griffin fails to teach a schedule management section which measures the time from the start of discussion of the subjects addressed at the conference and gives a notice when a scheduled discussion end time of a subject under discussion comes according to the schedule planned by the schedule planning section and when the scheduled discussion end time of the subject under discussion comes, the information accepting section selects whether to terminate discussing the subject under discussion and if the discussion is to be continued, the information accepting section accepts modification of the necessary information which has already been accepted by the information accepting section, said schedule planning section replanning a subsequent schedule for the conference in progress based on the modification of the necessary information, taken in combination with a a conference management assistance program that runs on a computer and makes operable as a conference management assistance apparatus for assisting progress of proceeding as recited in independent claim 8.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

a. Choi (A Conference Control Model for Light-weight Sessions) discloses a conference control model for Internet multicasting applications.

b. Bandyopadhyay (A Video Conference Network Management System), discloses a video conference system for monitoring and performing conferences to users.

c. Nie et al (Web Conference Scheduling for Research Projects) discloses a web system for allowing flexibility of on-line discussions.

d. Sehan (EP 969687A1) discloses a system where a user provides information to schedule a conference session.

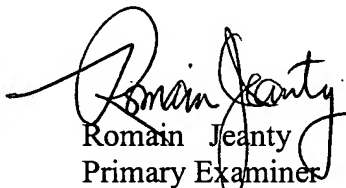
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Romain Jeanty whose telephone number is (571) 272-6732. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs 7:30 am. to 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq R. Hafiz can be reached on (571) 272-6729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3623

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

October 30, 2006



Romain Jeanty
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3623